



Reduce & Reuse (R&R) Workgroup

Kickoff Meeting - March 4, 2020

MassDEP Reduce & Reuse (R&R) Working Group

- A forum for discussion of source reduction and reuse regulations, policies, and programs in Massachusetts.
- The R&R Working Group was established to assist in the development of a MassDEP Strategic Reduce and Reuse Action Plan as outlined in the [2030 Solid Waste Master Plan](#). The working group is open to anyone interested in providing input on source reduction, reuse, and repair strategy in Massachusetts, and keeping informed of new policy and program developments.

Agenda

- Introductions
- R&R Goals & Strategies (in SWMP 2030)
- The State of Reduce & Reuse in MA
- Finalize Priority Materials/Focus Areas for the R&R Action Plan
- Develop Community Engagement Plan
- Next Steps: Workgroup Schedule & Format

Why Are We
Here?



Solid Waste Master Plan 2030

Public Comment Draft

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Massachusetts 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan

September 2019



- [Draft Solid Waste Master Plan](#)
 - Source Reduction & Reuse section
 - Includes creating Strategic Reduce and Reuse Action Plan
 - Reduce & Reuse (R&R) Working Group will inform this action plan

**Most
preferred**
environmental
option



**Least
preferred**
environmental
option

Reduction

Reuse

Recycling

Composting

Waste to energy

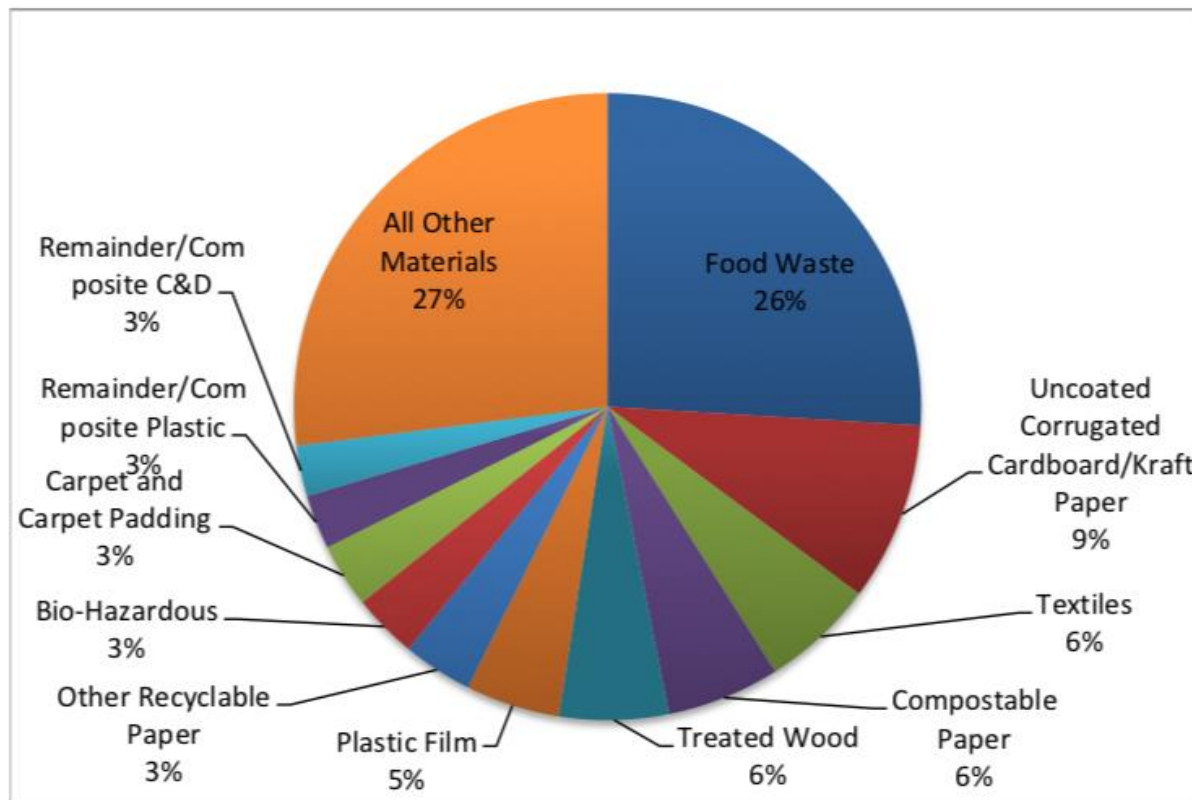
Landfilling



Image Source: MoreValueLessTrash.com

What's In Our Waste?

Figure 2.1 Top 10 Materials in the Trash (2016)



Source: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/summary-of-waste-combustor-class-ii-recycling-program-waste-characterization-studies-includes/download>

Source Reduction and Reuse Goals

- Develop and implement expanded strategies to reduce waste at the source.
- Develop and implement policies and programs that extend the lifespan of products through reuse, repair and remanufacturing

R&R Action Plan

- Create a strategic reduce & reuse action plan that will:
 - Assess the best opportunities to increase materials reuse and extend product lifespans.
 - Identify barriers and capacity needs among priority industries, including workforce development needs and technical gaps.
 - Provide data on the state of reuse activity, economic benefit, materials diversion, and attitudes/behaviors around reuse.
 - Create a network of source reduction and reuse industry stakeholders and hold an open dialogue to advance reuse, repair and extension of product lifetimes.

Definitions

- Source Reduction: Reduce material use and generation
- Reuse: use of a material repeatedly in its same form for the same purpose or for different purposes (includes repair)

Examples

- Promoting the sharing economy
- Repairing items to extend product lifespan
- Opting for reusable vs. disposable items
- Promoting durable/repairable goods
- Repurposing
- Refurbishing/
Remanufacturing
- Eliminating unnecessary packaging/waste



Organics Action Plan

Reducing Waste and Donating Food

Barrier: Missing Opportunities to Reduce Food Waste and Donate Food

As more and more businesses separate wasted food to be diverted for disposal, it becomes clear that there are opportunities to reduce wasted food to begin with through more efficient food service operations. However, businesses need better information to identify these opportunities. In addition, in some cases, businesses divert food to composting, anaerobic digestion, or animal feed, when that food may still be high quality food that is safe to donate and serve to people. Businesses, food donation organizations, and local health officials need transparent guidance to ensure that this food can be donated safely and effectively.

Actions	Original Target Date	Status
Promote industry best management practices to reduce food waste generation <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Develop basic guidance on reducing food waste○ Complete survey of colleges & universities on food waste reduction strategies○ Promote and share best practices from survey to increase their adoption	New	Complete Spring 2017
	New	Ongoing
Promote food waste reduction strategies at schools through the Massachusetts Green Team program	New	Ongoing
Create best management practices around food donation, engaging with stakeholders (Health Agents, food donation groups, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Partner with the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic to create legal fact sheet on food donation liability	Ongoing	Ongoing
	New	Completed

Action Plan

- Iterative planning process
- Multiple opportunities for stakeholder engagement
- Identifying major barriers to source reduction and reuse
- Prioritizing 3-10 strategic actions for each priority material/focus area

What MassDEP does:

- Set solid waste policy
- Create & enforce regulations (waste bans)
- Permit solid waste facilities (landfills, incinerators, transfer stations)
- Incentivize waste reduction programs (grant programs)
- Technical assistance for businesses and municipalities on waste reduction programs
- Training & education (best practices, case studies, outreach)

Source Reduction and Reuse: Current Work

- Grant programs (i.e. PAYT, RDP, Micro-Grant, Waste Reduction Grants, School Grants)
- Funding to support market development (RBDG)
- Trainings and case studies to highlight best practices
- Technical assistance for source reduction of food waste



Repair Café in Bolton. Photo Credit: Bolton Rotary Club

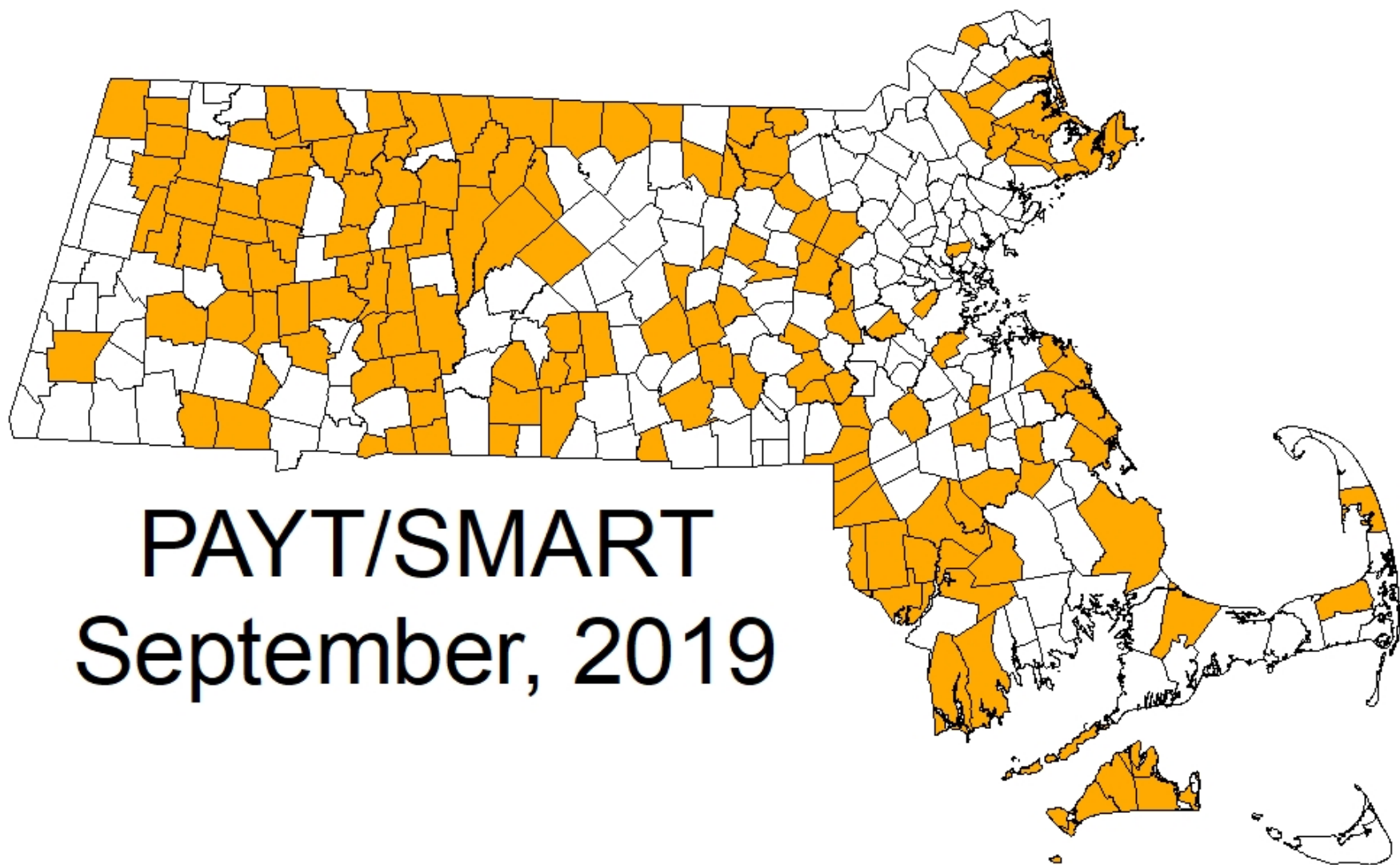
Massachusetts Waste Bans

- Go back to early 1990s – materials added over time
 - Cardboard, paper, bottles and cans
 - Leaves & yard waste
 - Food waste (businesses > 1 ton/week; ½ ton/week proposed)
 - Certain construction materials
 - White goods/appliances, lead acid batteries cathode ray tubes
 - Mattresses (Proposed)
 - Textiles (Proposed)

Pay-As-You-Throw

Municipal Grant Program & Technical Assistance





Swap Shops



Swap Shop in South Hadley. Photo Credit: South Hadley DPW

[Municipal Drop-Off Equipment Grants
Recycling Dividends Program \(RDP\)](#)

School Dishwashers & Reusable Trays

Municipal School
Recycling
Assistance Grants



Reusable Trays & Dishwasher
Northhampton High School

Recycling Dividends Funds

- Repair Event
- Swap Shop
- Zero Waste Day
- Tool Library/
Library of Things

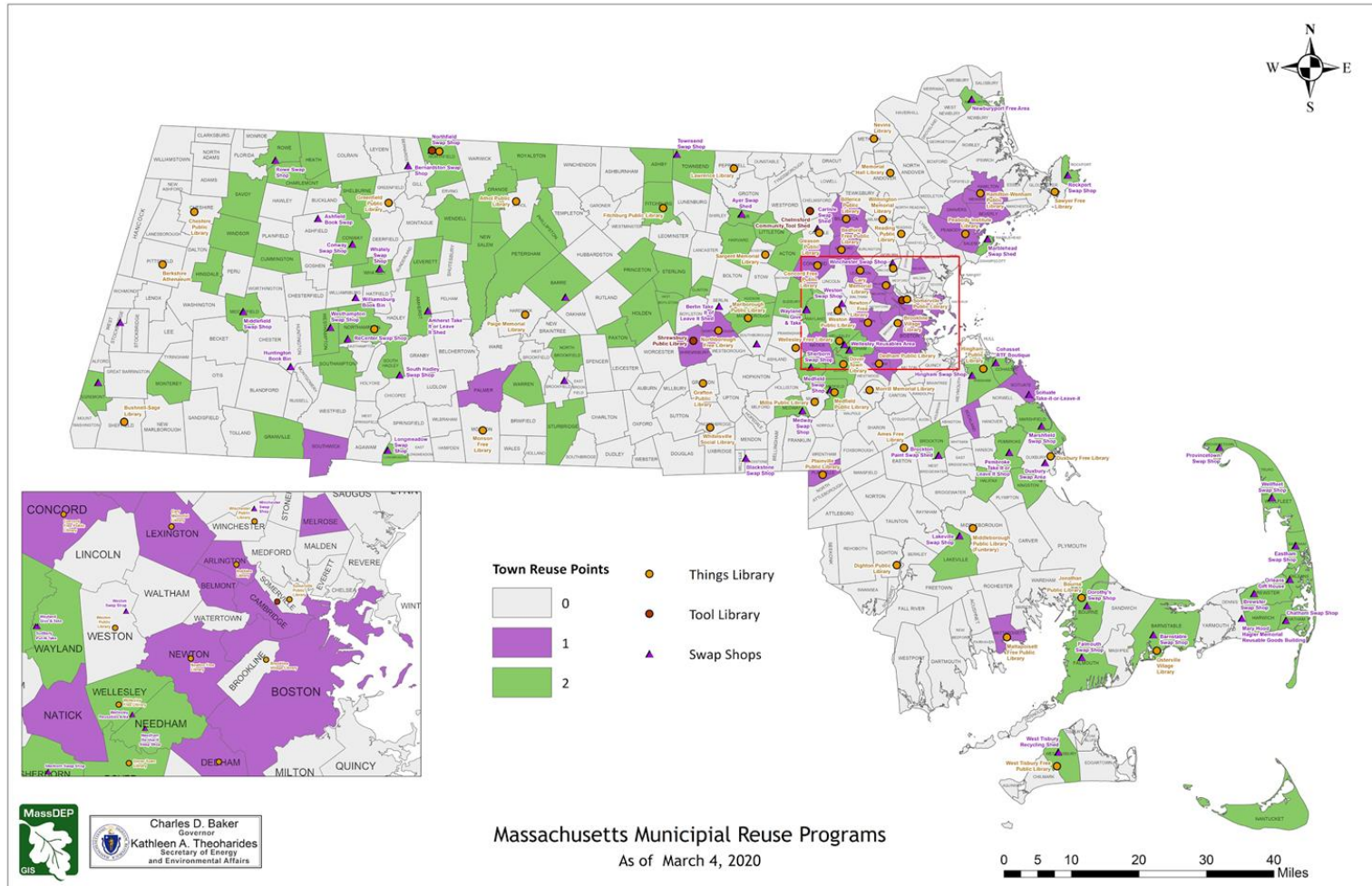


"Recycle Your Reusables" Annual Drop-Off Day in Ayer.
Photo Credit: Ayer Recycling Committee

[Municipal Recycling
Dividends Program \(RDP\)](#)

[Municipal Reuse & Repair
Programs Resources](#)

Municipal Reuse Programs



Waste Reduction Projects



Regional latex paint reuse



Tracy Pierce and Dona Neely at the Devens Eco-Efficiency Program

Recently Funded Projects:

- City of Newburyport – ShareBank
- Town of Bourne – Regional latex paint collection and reuse initiative
- Devens Eco-Efficiency Center – Materials reuse program expansion
- Habitat for Humanity (Greater Worcester) – New ReStore location for building materials and furniture

Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant

RRR Micro-Grant



Recently Funded Projects Include:

- Greening Greenfield & The Pittsfield Chapter of the BagShare Program
- More Than Words - Used Textile Collection
- Berkshire Environmental Action Team - Zero Waste Initiative
- Town of Rowe= Library of Things
- Mount Wachusett Community College - Reusable trays and cutlery in the cafe
- Brickyard Collaborative- Repair events
- Lexington Public School - Eliminating single use plastic bags in the cafeteria
- Taunton Housing Authority - Tool Lending Library at the Community Garden
- Fresh Start Furniture Bank - Loading Dock
- Coffee Cup Collective - Reusable Coffee Cups

Recycling Business Development Grants



School furniture from the decommissioning of Berlin-Bolyston's middle/high school gets a new life at St. George's College (K-12). Kingston, Jamaica.

Image source: IRN

Assistance for Businesses & Institutions



Recycling Works Massachusetts

Best Management Practices

- Source Reduction of Food Waste Guidance:
- Food Donation Guidance
- Business and Institutional Furniture and Office Equipment Reuse Guidance
- Construction and Demolition Materials Guidance

Case Studies

- Surplus food donation & source reduction of food scraps
- Building Materials Reuse

Massachusetts Reuse Organizations

Table 2-7 In-State Reuse Organization Capacity (2016-18^[1])

Facility Type	Data Type	No. of Facilities	Tons Received	Margin of Error
Food Rescue	Confirmed	17	17,456	0
	Estimated	2	2,054	5,077
	<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	19	19,510	5,077
Small Textiles & Household Goods	Confirmed	6	167	0
	Estimated	105	2,923	1,536
	<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	111	3,090	1,536
Large Textiles & Household Goods	Confirmed	8	3,874	0
	Estimated	65	11,467	NA ^[2]
	<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	73	15,340	NA
Building Materials & Household Furnishings	Confirmed	4	1,504	0
	Estimated	7	2,632	2,514
	<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	11	4,136	2,514
Institutional/Commercial Furniture & Equipment	Confirmed	4	549	0
	Estimated	2	275	895
	<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	6	824	895
GRAND TOTAL		220	42,899	NA

[1] Data aggregated from sources that vary in timeframe from 2016 to 2018.

[2] Not available due to the mixed variety of operations.

Priority Focus Areas

- Creating a Culture of Source Reduction and Reuse
- Household Durable Goods (including electronics and furniture)
- Single Use Packaging and Food Service Products (e.g. take out containers, cutlery, etc.)
- Transportation & Distribution Packaging (e.g. shipping containers, pallets)
- Used/Surplus Furniture (Commercial/Institutional)
- Textiles & Clothing
- Building Materials (e.g. used and surplus lumber, windows, doors, cabinets, fixtures)

Community Engagement

How can we best engage the broader community to garner more input and support for the R&R Action Plan?



Community Engagement

- Include climate change activists in the outreach work; make the connection between waste reduction and climate change
- Use DEP's cart tagging program to communicate about R&R initiative and stakeholder opportunities to participate
- Use students to get the word out. Example: many college universities have Eco Reps that help raise awareness of environmental issues
- Involve Mass Municipal Assn and Regional Planning Authorities (e.g. MAPC) in the R&R dialogue
- Capitalize on the anti-plastic, anti-single use plastic sentiment to promote our message
- Tell the story about the difference donated household goods can make

Tentative Workgroup Schedule

April 2020 – Creating a Culture of Reduce & Reuse in MA

May 2020 – Household Durable Goods (including electronics and furniture)

June 2020 – Single Use Packaging & Food Service Products

July 2020 – Used/Surplus Furniture (Commercial/Institutional)

August 2020 – Textiles & Clothing

September 2020 – Building Materials

October 2020 – Transportation & Distribution Packaging

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 1st,
2020

Time: 11AM - 1 PM?

Location: TBD

Topic: Creating a Culture
of Reduce & Reuse

Workgroup Meeting Format

- Iterative Planning Process
- Bulk of work done outside of meeting
- Multiple touchpoints for stakeholder input
- Meetings focused on group brainstorming and prioritizing strategies

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